

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in support of the Notice of Appeal and Appeal Brief. No new matter has been added to the application. No fee for additional claims is due by way of this Amendment. The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090. Upon entry of the amendments herewith, claims 18 and 31-56 remain pending.

1. Request For Pre-Appeal Brief Review Was Apparently Disregarded

Applicants concurrently filed with the Notice of Appeal a Request for Pre-Appeal Brief Review and the requisite Statement in Support of the Request for a Pre-Appeal Brief Review.

Apparently, the Pre-Appeal Brief Review was not conducted. No record of the findings by the Pre-Appeal Brief Review panel was provided to the Applicants. Nor is any record of the findings by the Pre-Appeal Brief Review panel included in the PAIR Image File Wrapper. However, the PAIR Image File Wrapper does include the Applicants' Request for Pre-Appeal Brief Review and the requisite Statement in Support of the Request for a Pre-Appeal Brief Review (see Pre-Brief conference requests dated 07-19-2007).

Applicants respectfully request clarification and explanation as to the reason why the requested Pre-Appeal Brief Review was not conducted, particularly in view that the Applicants have incurred considerable expense and effort in preparing and filing an Appeal Brief.

2. Claim 48

Claim 48 is amended herewith to delete the word "the" at line 6. Applicants wish to clarify that the amendment to claim 48 is not made in response to any objection or rejection made by the Examiner during prosecution of the instant case. Furthermore, the amendment to

claim 48 does not change the scope of claim 48 in any manner. The amendment to claim 48 merely corrects an apparent typographical error.

Respectfully submitted,

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